

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 NIC-01 /068 W

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P R 111347Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2006

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: JESUINO MEETS WITH JOURNALISTS

REF: LISBON 1303

1. FOLLOWING MARCH 10 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR (REFTEL)
JESUINO, MINISTER OF MASS COMMUNICATION, AGREED TO MEET WITH
JOURANLISTS WHO HAD BEEN ROUGHED UP IN SETUBAL INCIDENT.

2. MEETING LASTED OVER ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS, FIRST 20
MINUTES OF WHICH WAS AN APOLOGY TO JOURNALISTS FOR TREATMENT
THEY HAD RECEIVED AT HANDS OF EXTREMIST GROUPS AT PPD RALLY
LAST WEEKEND. JESUINO SAID SOME GROUPS WANT TO PREVENT
ELECTIONS FROM TAKING PLACE. HE BACKED AWAY FROM EARLIER
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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY HIS MINISTRY (AND WHICH HE APPARENTLY

HAD NOT SEEN UNTIL AMBASSADOR SHOWED HIM COPY) WHICH TOOK POSITION THAT JOURANLISTS HAD TO BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AS PART OF THEIR PROFESSION. HE TOLD JOURANLISTS THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN PROTECTION IN FUTURE AND WOULD BE ISSUED SPECIAL PRESS CARDS.

3. MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED SECOND COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MORNING PRESS MARCH 11, STATING THAT JOURANLISTS WHO ATTENDED PPD MEETING ARE ACCREDITED BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE FREE OF ANY ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST THEM ALLEGING OTHER AFFILIATIONS.

4. JESUINO ALSO SAID THAT FOREIGN JOURANLISTS ARE THE SPOKES PERSONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE TREATED WITH RESPECT IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

5. COMMENT: JOURANLISTS WHO MET WITH JESUINO TOLD EMBOFF THEY BELIEVED OUR ACTION INSPIRED SECOND COMMUNIQUE. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, ISSUANCE OF SECOND COMMUNIQUE SHOWS COMMENDABLE FLEXIBILITY AND CONFIRMS IMPRESSION REPORTED REFTEL THAT JESUINO HAS NOT DECLARED WAR ON FOREIGN PRESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, JOURNALISTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
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